

Mike Hanley
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
education.alaska.gov



Eric Fry
Information Officer

907.465.2851
cell: 907.321.5564
eric.fry@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board of Education Sets Ranges of Scores for New State Assessments

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting October 9 by audio conference, adopted regulations that set the range of scores within each achievement level in the Alaska Measures of Progress and Alaska Alternate Assessment.

Approximately 72,300 students in grades 3 to 10 took the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP), which assesses students' understanding of the state's standards for English language arts and math. Students score on a scale that is divided into four achievement levels, Level 1 to 4, from low to high.

Students in Level 3 and Level 4 are meeting the standards. Students in Level 1 and Level 2 are partially meeting the standards. AMP is not a pass/fail assessment. This summer, 125-plus Alaska educators recommended the range of scores for each achievement level. The State Board on Oct. 9 adopted those recommended scores into regulation.

After a review by 200-plus Alaska educators, the state adopted standards in June 2012 that are much more rigorous than the state's former standards. Because of that, AMP is a more challenging assessment than the state's former assessment.

Results from AMP are not comparable to former assessments because AMP measures more rigorous standards, using more difficult questions and different scoring. Students' scores on AMP in 2015 will serve as a baseline. As students take AMP assessments in future years, families and educators can see whether they are growing in their English and math skills.

The Alaska Alternate Assessment of English language arts and math is given to approximately 725 students a year who experience significant cognitive disabilities.

The board's packet for the Oct. 9 meeting is at https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/

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